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CANADIAN WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY.

VOL. I. TORONTO, THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1896. No. 1.

A HISTORY AND CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN POSTAGE AND REVENUES.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

WE present the Bill Stamps first, and after some consideration, decided it was best to affix a value to each issue. Some catalogues in the past have priced these issues rather high, and these figures have been cut down — considerably in some cases — and in others advanced.

Three issues comprise the Bill Stamps, the first appearing in 1864, second in 1865, and the third in 1869, and continued in use until 1882, at which date the Act by which this tax was imposed, was repealed.

The 1st and 2nd issue can be found unperforated, but they are considered as being proofs.

In the 1st issue the head of the Queen is in a perpendicular oval; "bill stamp" at top and "Canada" below; in upper corners value in figures, while at bottom it is spelt out; color is light blue, while in size all three issues are about the size of ordinary postage stamps. The dollar values, however, are somewhat larger.

Various perforations can be found, to which no attention will be paid. Papers in thin and thick wove cover 1st issue. The only known variety is the 7 cent, same being spelt SEVEN.

FIRST ISSUE.

(Queen's Head in octagonal frame.)

1864	1 cent blue	5
..	2 ..	7
..	3 ..	3
..	4 ..	35
..	5 ..	10
..	6 ..	2
..	7 ..	35
..	7 .. error, SEVEN	15 00
..	8 ..	30
..	9 ..	4
..	10 ..	8
..	20 ..	12
..	30 ..	17
..	40 ..	50
..	50 ..	25
..	$1 ..	85
..	$2 ..	1 50
..	$3 ..	3 00

In the 2nd issue the colors are varied, the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 cent being scarlet, head of Queen in perpendicular oval, across the top in two slight curved lines "Canada Bill Stamp," across the bottom the value in words, and above on each side value again in large figures. The 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 cents are blue, head of Queen in octagonal frame. The 30 cent value is also printed in scarlet. Dollar values have the Queen's head in a circle and printed in two colors. The whole set are pretty. In addition to thin and thick wove papers this issue is found on pelure paper.

SECOND ISSUE.

(Queen's Head in circle.)

1865	1 cent scarlet	6
..	2 ..	7
..	3 ..	3
..	4 ..	60
..	5 ..	10
..	6 ..	2
..	7 ..	1 50
..	8 ..	1 10
..	9 ..	3
..	10 cents blue	10
..	20 ..	8
..	30 ..	25
..	30 cents scarlet (error)	50
..	40 ..	30
..	50 ..	15
..	$1 green, red centre	85
..	$1 red, green centre	1 10
..	$2 red, purple centre	4 00
..	$3 red, purple centre	6 00

As in the 2nd issue, the 3rd issue is printed in various colors, and in this series the Queen is portrayed in mourning garb. The 3, 6 and 9 cent are green; 1, 2 (an error), 4 and 8 cent, brown; 2, 5 and 7 cent, orange; 10 to 50 cents, blue; dollar values in two colors. Two errors are found in this issue, the 2 cent brown and the $2 inverted head.

THIRD ISSUE.

(Queen in mourning costume.)

1869	1 cent brown	1
..	2 cent brown (error)	25
..	2 cent orange	1
..	3 cent green	1
..	4 cent brown	2
..	5 cent vermilion	3
..	6 cent green	1
..	7 cent vermilion	25
..	8 cent brown	4
..	9 cent green	1
..	10 cent blue	1
..	20 ..	2
..	30 ..	2
..	40 ..	10
..	50 ..	2
..	$1 blue and black	5
..	$2 orange and black	30
..	$2 (inverted head)	25 00
..	$3 green and black	50

(To be Continued.)

A FAMOUS STAMP BOURSE.

WE remember that Mr. Edouard Cadol said to us one day: "The novel writer has positively no use for your postage stamp collector; stamp collecting is nothing but a feeble passion of schoolboys, without any deep root and necessarily to a small number of devotees. A collector ruining his family by purchases of stamps would produce mocking laughter in the theatre."

But now! Philately has just been connected with a notorious crime which is now filling all the papers, and, contrary to the opinion of Mr. Cadol, we shall certainly see novelists and dramatists take hold of this new subject.

On May 21st last, a large and heavy case arrived during the day at the small station of Couville, and, not being claimed by any one of the travellers, was placed in the baggage room. It was noticed as emitting a suspicious odor and opened by the authorities. The case contained a trunk and in the latter a corpse. Next day the lugubrious parcel was called for by a young man and young women, who had brought it from Paris. Arrested at once they could not deny their crime nor conceal their identity; the former named Aubert and his companion Marguerite Dubois.

It was then learned with surprise that the assassin and victim were frequenters of the Stamp Bourse, and that it was to obtain possession of a collection of post-stamps that Aubert committed a crime.

Not knowing how to get rid of the body the murderer for several days carted it about in cabs, shut up in the trunk. He finally decided to take it to the St. Lazare station and thence to Couville, evidently intending to throw it into the sea.

THE CANADIAN WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

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WM. R. ADAMS, Editor and Manager.

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THIS fall promises to surpass that of any previous season, and contrary to the usual custom, the demand did not slacken until towards the end of July. The season again opens in September, and from that time collectors will be ready to buy most any line.

POLITICS is the prevailing thought in stamp societies these days. The Dominion Philatelic Association will hold its first annual convention at the Fair —Toronto Industrial—on Tuesday and Wednesday of second week. Notices have been received from a number of outside members that they will attend.

FOR president of the Dominion Philatelic Association our nomination is Mr. I. E. Weldon, of Lindsey, but who will reside in Toronto soon. Every society must have a good set of officers, and this year we think it advisable to elect the very best men. The position of secretary-treasurer is another important office, and as Mr. Patterson—the present officer—intends permanently residing in the States after October, some new person will be elected. We would suggest to the members that a vice-president be elected for each of the Provinces of the Dominion.

THIS paper desires a few correspondents to furnish notes at intervals. We issued this number ere notes came from Montreal, Halifax, Winnipeg, Quebec and other points. Same will appear in future issues.

(Continued from 1st page)

Aubert is 30 years of age, of medium height, slender, with dark complexion and sharp eyes ; a twitching of the face causes him to be remembered at once by those who have had any dealings with him. He came from a family of easy means, soon dissipated a small patrimony, took to cheating and went into various operations, finally becoming a postage stamp broker, which could not have been very profitable since he was entiyrel without resources at the moment of the crime. At the Stamp Bourse he made the acquaintance of several persons, who came to his house, drawn there by the passion for philately.

Mr. Delahaef, unfortunately, was one of the number. He was a young man of 20 years of age, rather timid, living at his father's. He was not a novice ; he often went to the Stamp Bourse buying and selling, and it was the purchase of a collection at 2,000 francs, which had been much talked off at the Bourse, that drew Aubert's attention to him. It was at that time that the idea must have been formed in the mind of the murderer of procuring by swindling, robbery, or even murder, important lots of rare stamps, which are easier to sell than jewels or other merchandise. With this object he wrote three letters on the 12th of May to young Delahaef, to Mr. Astruc and to us. All these letters are substantially the same, and when translated, is as follows :

PARIS, Tuesday, May 12th, '96.

Mr. Maury, Paris.

I should like to buy a collection of good stamps, guaranteed genuine, about 2,000 or 3,000 francs. I have thought that in your house I could easily find such. If you can supply me with them within 24 hours, send word to me—Mr. Gaston Darnis, Cafe des Negociants, Rue de Louvre, city. Send one of employees with reply to the Cafe des Negociants, or to my hotel which is next door, the Grand Hotel Central, Rue du Louvre, about 12 or 1 o clock.

I remain, etc.,

G. DARNIS.

We replied to this letter that we never went to houses, either to buy or to sell, but that in our store we were willing to give the client all information which could prove useful to him. Mr. Astrue replied to the same effect. Young Delahaef was not so prudent, and hastened to do business, taking with him his collection and duplicates. This was on May 14th. The accessories to the trap were ready—the fine eyes of Marguerite Dubois, the axe and the empty trunk. The unfortunate man did not return.

Meanwhile, Aubert was endeavoring to sell the stamps obtained, with the sole object, we must repeat, of procuring money, and not to satisfy a mad passion of a collector. From the 15th to the 18th of May he probably sold the rarest—to whom? This is not yet known. On the 19th he sold to Mr. Doubledent, Rue du Bac, for the sum of 600 francs, a partly denuded album. He also presented himself at Mr. Vervelle's, offering him some rather common duplicates.

The reporters of the large newspapers overwhelmed us for three days with the following questions :

"What is the Stamp Bourse really? What is the origin of the word Philately? What are the dearest stamps? What are the names of the principal collectors and what is the value of their collections? When did people begin to collect? What does the stamp business amount to?" To all this we have replied a hundred times during the past few years, and each time the information, more or less correctly noted down, has been re-produced in articles strewn with errors.

We have already related how a few isolated collectors, numismatics or collectors of the old vignettes from sheets of stamped paper, among whom we have mentioned Messrs. Legras and Laplante, had, about 1855, the idea of also collecting postage stamps. But it was from 1858 to 1860 in Paris that the fashion—we may say the passion—burst forth and increased, especially among children. The first devotees made appointments to meet in the Jardin des Tuileries, under the shade of the large chestnut trees along the central walk, between the parterres surrounded by railings and the square space where there are two statues of young girls running, copied from some antique statues. Boys and girls held pleasant meetings there each day, and handed one another their books of duplicates which they wished to exchange: "I will give you two Belgians for your Spanish," and the collections gradually became enriched with types whose novelty rendered them admirable, while mamas and governesses, seated around on the large straw-covered chairs watched the childish transactions from a distance, reading or doing needlework.

On Thursdays, and especially Sundays the little market was more lively, as the schoolboys brought their noise and their pennies. There were also to be found junior clerks from banks and business houses, where the harvest of postage stamps was abundant and easy. The sales soon got ahead of the exchanges. The name of Petite Bourse (Little Exchange), given in pleasantry, was a happy one ; all the newspapers mentioned it

whenever they spoke of the mania of stamp collecting. The Little Stamp Bourse was seen at the theatre and was found in the annual reviews. Sardou introduced into the Famille Benoiton (1865) a broker of 8 years of age who got the best of his companions by buying up all the stamps of the Confederate States of America which were on the market, to sell them again an hour later when a dispatch announced that the Federals were the vanquishers. This has no common sense from a philatelic point of view, but let us proceed.

In 1864 the Stamp Bourse met every Thursday and Saturday, gathering from 200 to 400 persons, children no longer figuring for more than half. It was a real open market, where might be found persons of doubtful appearance, indelicate dealers, and even worse. Complaints were numerous; children had received counterfeit stamps in exchange for their genuine ones; books and albums had been carried off; young men there sold stamps which had been stolen. The police, whom these periodical assemblies had annoyed for a long time, were delighted at receiving orders to tolerate them no longer. Tracked into all of the corners of the Tuileries were they had appointments, the collectors emigrated to the Jardin du Luxembourg. As soon as it became somewhat numerous, the new market was again dissolved by order, and was transplanted to the Champs-Elysees, at different points, and finally to the Carre Marigny behind the Marionette shows. It has remained there ever since, with ups and downs, according to the more or less tolerant disposition of the police.

Abroad, open stamp markets have been noticed in all the capitals, but as soon as they got beyond the proportions of children's games — that is, when dealer's appeared—they were no longer tolerated, and they took refuge in hired premises or beer saloons. The Little Bourse of Vienna is spoken of in this way, but it did not become very well known.

Postage stamp dealers, established in stores, becoming more and more numerous on all hands, prevented the open market from assuming proportions commensorate with the continually increasing number of votaries. The meetings comprise sometimes 20 persons, again to the number of 200 to 400; there are some frequenters who come in all weather, both winter and summer, if only to talk stamps. The general air is rather Bohemian, with a mixture of ardent collectors, who are always hoping, according to the slang of the place, to find an extra good bargain.

The stranger, the rich collector who wanders there and, pretending to be an expert, allows himself to be saddled with bogus stamps, is called a "poire" (gull).

Neither large collectors nor dealers habitually frequent this market.

The professionals carry bags having shoulder straps like omnibus conductors, whence they take out their books of stamps and wherein they engulf receipts. There are mute and automatic dealers who offer their books wide open, and when stamps are pointed out, simply replies: "5 cents, 20 francs, 2 cents," and as soon as they have turned the last page, open another album. Others are of a more jovial aspect and make speeches in order to get the buyers to laugh, these later being somewhat serious and full of distrust. As a whole the gathering is rather busy, people do not speak too loud so as not to interfere with their neighbors. Each group is only composed of three or four persons. Every new comer is assailed with discreet offers; three parts of the habituees know one another by sight only, still they know the albums better than they do the faces.

It is nonsense to say that the prices of postage stamps are made at the Bourse. These prices, which are somewhat elastic however, are fixed by the catalogues and periodicals of the large firms of London, Paris, Brussels, Leipzig, New York, which have stocks of several millions, not of stamps, but of francs, and some of which are joint concerns, solid as a good bank.

This fanciful name of Bourse produces a wrong impression, as in Sardou's piece. There is no Bourse except for important securities and for products in enormous quantities, such as wheat, sugar, cotton, which absolutely require daily quotations. People do not speak of the Book Bourse, the Curiosity Bourse, the Picture Bourse. The confusion degenerates into bad faith and deserves prosecution when we find printed: "The Official Postage Stamp Bourse," since the word "official" conveys the idea that the advertiser has the guarantee of the state, whilst in reality being without authority and unknown.

Established dealers, who pay heavy taxes which are a considerable addition to their rent, and who pay the tax of the Commercial Bourse, are unable to understand why the Municipal Council should, as requested, favor the open market, which contributes nothing at all to the budget. It is a serious competition to steady business houses, as collections of from a 1,000 to 10,000 francs find there way there, and 20 franc pieces and bank notes circulate. It is no longer a place where youngsters go to circulate stamps.

The stamp business is at the present time one of the most difficult to carry on, since genuineness is the prime requisite. Now this genuineness is not very easy to discern on account of the progress made in the art of the forger and of the advantages which can be obtained from the use of photo-engraving, and also on account of the impunity which is assured to them by the French courts. In addition to the regretable promiscuousness, the Stamp Bourse has the defect of exciting in many children who frequent it assiduously, a mercantile precrocity which is distressing to witness. It often causes young men to completely abandon their work in the office, store or the workshop, in order to launch into hazardous speculations in postage stamps—as pernicious as betting on horse races. To finish kindly, says Le Collectionneur de Timbre-Poste, we will say that the Stamp Bourse is, on a Sunny Sunday, one of the corners of pictueresque Paris worthy of being seen. It has in its favor the fact that it was the cradle of philately when it was nothing but a childish stamp mania.

NEW ISSUES.

British East Africa chronicles a new set. The design is the same on all the values, a microscopic portrait of the Queen in the centre; "British East Africa" in two lines at the top, "Protectorate" at bottom, "Post and Revenue" and the value in curves above and below the portrait.

½a yellow, 2a chocolate, 2½a blue, 3a grey, 4a deep-green, 4½a orange-yellow, 5a bistre, 7½a lilac-mauve, 8a stone-grey, 1r ultramarine, 3r violet-mauve, 4r carmine-lake, 5r brown.

The P. J. of Great Britain reports that it has seen British East Africa revenues used postally.

1/ in black on 10/ blue, value in red
6/ " £10 orange "
10/ green, value in red.
£1 blue, value in red.

The same paper, speaking of British South Africa says: The troubles in this country have caused the issue of a set of Cape stamps surcharged in small block capitals "British South Africa." The reason for their issue is that Bulwayo ran out of stamps, and owing to its being cut off from Salisbury, the capital where the stock of stamps is kept, had to apply to the Cape for a loan. We give the number the Cape sent.

½d black on black, 24,000.
1d black on rose, 36,000.
2d black on brown, 18,000.
3d black on claret, 2,640.
4d black on blue, 9,000.
6d black on violet, 3,960.

Madagascar has a provisional issue of the current set of French stamps surcharged with new value.

5c on 1c black on lilac.
10c on 2c brown on buff.
25c on 2c brown on buff.
25c on 3c gray on grayish.
25c on 4c claret on lavender.
25c on 40c red on straw.

CUBA UNUSED.

1856, ½rp blue...	10	1878, 5c blue....	3
1857, ½rp blue...	3	— 12½c brown	15
— ½rp green .	3	— 25c lt grn .	3
— 2rp red....	6	— 50c dk grn.	3
1862, ½rp black .	6	— 1p carmine	20
1864, 1rp green .	3	1879, 5c black .	3
— 1rp blue ..	5	— 12½c carm.	8
1866, 10c blue...	5	— 25c blue...	3
— 20c green .	10	— 50c gray..	3
1870, 10c green .	3	— 1p brown .	20
— 20c brown.	4	1880, 5c green ..	3
1871, 12c lilac .	15	— 12½c lilac..	8
— 25c blue ..	3	— 25c blue...	2
— same used	1	— 50c brown.	3
— 50c green .	4	— 1p bistre..	15
1873, 12½c green.	20	1881, 1c green ..	2
— 25c lilac ..	4	— 2½c olive...	3
— 50c brown.	5	— 5c blue ..	2
1874, 12½c brown	10	— 10c red brn	3
— 25c blue ..	2	— 20c brown	10
— 50c green .	3	1882, 10c bistre.	5
— 1p brown.	15	1883, 4 kind, each	
1876, 12½c green	8	5c... ...	5
— 25c lilac ..	6	10c.....	10
— 50c blue...	10	20c.....	15
— 1p black . .	15	1884, 2½c brown.	4
1877, 12½c lilac..	8	— 2½c violet .	4
— 25c green .	4	— 10c brown.	6
— 50c black .	3	— 20c olive..	12
— 1p brown	15	1890, 20c dk v'let	3

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